

ATLAS OF NEUROSURGICAL TECHNIQUES, AN—James L. Poppen, M.D., Neurosurgeon, The Lahey Clinic, New England Baptist Hospital, and the New England Deaconess Hospital; W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1960. 522 pages, \$28.00.

This atlas, compiled by one of the most skillful and experienced American neurosurgeons, covers practically the entire scope of this entire surgical specialty. The contents are divided into five main categories, including head, neck, chest, and abdomen, extremities and spine.

All of these standard neurosurgical procedures are outlined in detail, giving particular attention to position of the patient, all steps in the technique of the procedure, and are accompanied by excellent line drawings. Very few photographs and x-rays are included. While an attempt has been made to classify the procedures considered in the first section concerning the head into extracranial skull and intracranial lesions and operations, the subject matter is so varied that the organization of this particular section seems poorly done. Those procedures concerning the neck, the trunk, extremities, and spine, lend themselves more readily to classification, and their presentation appears more orderly. The volume is well indexed, but no attempt has been made to provide references.

This atlas will have no appeal to anyone outside the field of neurosurgery; but to all concerned with this specialty, whether in training or in practice, this atlas will be of real and lasting value.

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DRUGS OF CHOICE, 1960-1961—Walter Modell, M.D., Editor; Director, Clinical Pharmacology, and Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College; Attending Physician, New York Veterans Administration Hospital. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1960. 958 pages, \$13.50.

In his preface to the second (1960-1961) edition of *Drugs of Choice*, the editor states that the intention is to revise this book every two years. Although the second edition is only 27 pages larger than the first, eight new chapters have been added; obviously some old material has been deleted or shortened. Since your reviewer discussed the first edition in some detail in the January 1959 issue of *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE*, the present review will be concerned principally with these new chapters.

Chapter 2. Physical and Chemical Considerations in the Choice of Drugs is written by Doctors Lloyd C. Miller and Albert H. Holland. It emphasizes the importance of the physical condition of drug preparations in influencing gastrointestinal absorption and discusses "case-hardening" of tablets, nondisintegrating enteric coatings, salts vs. bases, liquid preparations, aerosols.

Chapter 7. The Choice of a Local Antiseptic is by Philip B. Price. Dr. Price defines antiseptics as "substances that, applied to microorganisms, render them innocuous, either by killing them or preventing their growth." He discusses disinfection of surgeons' and nurses' hands and of the field of operation, and the use of antiseptics in wounds.

Chapter 9. In this chapter Dr. Leighton E. Cluff discusses the Choice of Drugs for Viral, Spirochetal, and Rickettsial Infections, describing not only the use of anti-infective agents but also such ancillary drugs as norepinephrine, cortisone and inhalants.

Chapter 14. The authors of the Choice of Sedatives and Tranquilizers in General Medical Practice are Dale G. Friend and James T. Hamlin III. It consists largely of an abbreviated pharmacology of the drugs. Its chief virtue is in the comparative evaluation of the newest drugs of this group.

Chapter 21. The editor, Walter Modell and George C. Reader prepared the Choice of an Anorexiant. They have

written an excellent brief review of the problem of controlling diet in obesity and have described briefly the pharmacology and use of a long list of amphetamine congeners used to curb appetite.

Chapter 31. The Choice of Drugs in Endocrine Dysfunction is by Herbert S. Kupperman and consists of 30 pages of carefully written discussions not only of the actions of all the hormone preparations but of clinical conditions in which they are used.

Chapter 38. This chapter on the Choice of Drugs for Ophthalmic Use by Irving H. Leopold achieves well the purpose of the book to provide "a practical guide to the selection of the best drug for a particular therapeutic problem." The author discusses a large variety of locally and systemically acting drugs, how to modify their absorption and action, how to choose a particular drug for a particular indication.

Chapter 39. The Choice of Drugs for Otolaryngologic Disorders by William H. Saunders is unfortunately not up to the standard of the rest of the book. Nearly half of the chapter is devoted to describing clinical conditions of the ear and nose which would be already well known to the reader and the discussion of drugs is too rudimentary.

In his preface to this second edition Dr. Modell explains that the Drug Index, which in the first edition was divided among the individual chapters, is collected into a single list. This occupies 100 pages of the 958 pages of the entire book, including the general index. Your reviewer wishes to repeat the final statement in his review of the first edition. "Since now nearly every physician receives an annual copy of 'PDR' which includes this information and more, the 'Drug Index' could well be omitted and thus reduce the cost without reducing the value of this book."

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D.

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MANUAL OF HAND INJURIES—2nd Edition—H. Minor Nichols, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Surgery, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland; and Member of American Society for Surgery of the Hand; American Association for the Surgery of Trauma; Western Surgical Association; Societe Internationale de Chirurgie. Foreword by Michael I. Mason, M.D. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois St., Chicago 11, 1960. 400 pages, \$11.00.

The second edition of *Manual of Hand Injuries* by H. Minor Nichols has been expanded by some 50 pages which represent, for the most part, additional material.

A chapter on crush injuries of the hand appears, and additions to other chapters include such topics as cross-finger flaps, expanded use of K. wires for skeletal fixation, carpal tunnel syndrome, etc. The anatomical plates have been reproduced in color, and additional line sketches added here and there for clarity. The index has also been expanded for better reference.

The general text remains essentially unaltered and presents the primary care of traumatic hand injury in a systematic way, dealing with structure by structure, and when possible tying the information together by presentation of selected personal cases. Various reparative methods are presented with the author generally indicating his preference.

Minimal space is devoted to late reconstruction and nontraumatic conditions of the hand at the end of the text, but this serves to give some insight into the vast field of surgery of the hand.

Although prepared principally for medical students and house officers, the second edition should have a broad appeal for the surgeons called upon to care for acute hand injuries.

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